COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294

P. MICHAEL FREEMAN FIRE CHIEF FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

(323) 881-2401

July 17, 2003

TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: P. MICHAEL FREEMAN

CITY OF SANTA MONICA FARMER'S MARKET MASS CASUALTY INCIDENT

Yesterday, July 16, 2003 Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD) was called to assist the Santa Monica Fire Department (SMFD) in a mass-casualty incident at the Farmer's Market on 4th Street and Arizona Avenue in the City of Santa Monica.

An 86-year old male drove his vehicle into the farmer's market, killing 9 and injuring over 40 people. LACoFD provided a high level of involvement and support, and included in the response were two engine companies, one squad, one helicopter, two lifeguard units, one deputy chief, one battalion chief, a safety officer, and other personnel. Other resources who responded included a senior nurse educator, Mary Valence, R.N., and our Medical Director, Franklin Pratt M.D.

Engine 110 and Squad 58 were moved to SMFD headquarters to provide backup coverage while the SMFD resources were occupied with the incident, and Engine 7 set up and managed the helispot for Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) and LACoFD helicopters. Because of the capability of our specially-configured Firehawk 16, we were able to transport 4 critically-injured patients all at once, accompanied by our R.N., to Martin Luther King, Jr. - Charles R. Drew Medical Center, to relieve the local trauma centers which were overwhelmed.

Our personnel provided support in developing an incident action plan (IAP) and assisting with logistics. Later in the evening, the Fire Chief and a deputy chief from SMFD expressed their gratitude to our personnel and to me personally for our assistance during this tragic event. As a medium-sized department, their resources were overwhelmed by these events, and they were grateful for our prompt response and support.

SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

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Please contact me if you need additional information.

PMF:PLF

c: David Janssen Louisa Ollague Randi Tahara Joseph Charney Matt Knabe Jennifer Plaisted